

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Councilmember James J. Bogaczyk called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: (absent, President Jerome Ogden and Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk (both members are in Florida)); Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, (absent, James Holleman), Cheryl Bubacz, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; David Thompson, Sr. KCC Committee and Chairman of the Coal Festival; Miranda Kline NPHS Student Representative; Roger Bunn, Paul Hosszu, and Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 9, 2009: Mayor Backman asked for a correction – Page 2: Reports: Mayor: *delete Mayor Backman was absent.* Mayor Backman was in attendance. The minutes for February 9, 2009 were accepted, as corrected, on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffery Everett. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Guests: Roger Bunn, Paul Hosszu and Kenneth Hughes, Blossburg residents, were attending the meeting for observation.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Miranda Kline gave a Student Council Activity Report:

This year, Student Council is sending Jamie Martin and Matt Doyle to the Student Council Conference. Funds are being raised and donations are being accepted.

School store has opened.

The Drama Club annual production is "Still Life with Iris". It will be presented on March 26 – 28, 2009 at 7:30 P.M.

North Penn High School varsity girl's basketball team qualified for Districts for a second year in a row. The Southern Tioga Percussion and Color Guard both placed first in their competition held on Saturday, February 28, 2009. The Percussion Ensemble earned first place honors in the Mid-Atlantic Percussion Society's Class A Division and the Intermediate Percussion Class. The Color Guard earned first place in the Novice Division. Councilmember James Bogaczyk asked the Borough Secretary to send letters, from Council, congratulating the North Penn High School varsity girl's basketball team, the Percussion Ensemble and Color Guard for all of their accomplishments.

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$956.00, with all bills paid.

Mr. Thompson reported Stoudt's Electric has installed motion lights on front of KCC Building.

Reports: V.I.B.E. is utilizing the KCC building for after school activities.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk commented on how clean the building is.

(C) Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available from the Internet.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

The organization is working on a newsletter for school students.

Laurel Fitness Center, Riverside Plaza, is welcoming students to workout, free of charge, on weekdays from 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Mrs. Nickerson is working on a grant for repairs to the KCC Building.

Skate Park: A committee is to be set up to oversee construction.

(D) Mayor: No report.

(E) Police: Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett approved Blossburg Police Department Taser Policy. Corporal McCurdy to train Blossburg's patrolmen in the next two (2) weeks.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

The Tioga County Planning Commission is holding a Public Hearing on the County-wide Zoning Ordinance. The meeting will be in the Commissioner's Conference Room at the Tioga County Courthouse on March 11, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Zoning Ordinances in Blossburg Borough will supercede any county ordinance.

Christine from Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) will be attending the Tioga County Association of Boroughs (TCAB) meeting in Blossburg on March 26, 2009. She will be at the Borough office at 1:00 P.M., if Councilmembers have any questions.

(H) Planning Commission: No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Reports:

(I) **Recreation:** Councilmember Jill Nickerson is working on a \$10,000.00 grant for the Island Park basketball court. The basketball court needs to be 6' shorter and 11' wider.

Total United Fund monies: Door to Door - \$3,183.00. Ward Mfg. Match - \$3,183.00. Business - \$1,780.00. Total: \$8,146.00. Disbursements were \$7,600.00: Library - \$1,600.00, Partners in Progress - \$500.00, Salvation Army - \$1,000.00, Recreation - \$2,500.00, Little League - \$1,000.00, V.I.B.E. - \$500.00, and Food Pantry - \$500.00, leaving a balance of \$546.00. No request for money was received from the Blossburg Fire or Ambulance departments.

(J) **Fire:** No report received. Council would like to receive reports.

New officers were elected and departments are in the process of changing accounts over and working on preliminary budget reports.

(K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.

Beginning with the March billing the base rates will increase by \$4.00 per month. Stations that used to be no cost to the subscriber have now become stations under contract charging monthly rates.

(L) **Library:** No meeting.

(M) **Street Committee:** Borough Manager to check on crosswalks signs.

There will be an increase of truck traffic through Blossburg, because of the of trucks hauling water to use in the fracturing of gas wells.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

1) Authority purchased a used 70 kw generator from Wellsboro Borough to use at Bellman Filter Plant. The cost for the generator was \$4,355.76. 2) No timbering on Taylor Run property this year because of low timber prices. 3) DEP requesting plans to remove old wooden reservoir at Taylor Run by 2010.

Motion to accept Blossburg Municipal Report was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:16 P.M.
RECONVENED 7:50 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** The Borough Solicitor is working on.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. South Mountain Sludge Project – Kyler Environmental / Greg Barcher:

Motion to allow Kyler Environmental to use William B. Street as access to private property located on South Mountain for the spreading of biosolids on old mined areas was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second Jeffrey Everett.

Roll Call: Yes – Jill Nickerson, Cheryl Bubacz, Jeffrey Everett, James Bogaczyk.

Motion carried.

3. Appointment of Gina VanGorden, Deputy Blossburg Tax Collector:

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett approved Dorothy Rakoski, Tax Collector request to deputize Gina VanGorden as Deputy Tax Collector to collect taxes in the absence of Ms. Rakoski. Ms. Rakoski will work out compensation with Mrs. VanGorden and there will be no additional cost to the Borough. Should Ms. Rakoski become unable to continue her duties as Tax Collector, the Borough will have the right to appoint a new Tax Collector at that time. Motion to approve appointing Gina VanGorden Deputy Blossburg Tax Collector was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

4. Increase Tax Collector Compensation 1%:

The Borough Solicitor counseled that a Resolution in writing must be presented to Council prior to the Petitions for election is circulated. Tax Collectors salaries must be set for the four years, prior to the circulating of Petitions for that office.

5. Coal Festival Liability Insurance Package – Borough to Disburse:

Councilmember Jeffrey Everett made a motion to have the Blossburg Borough fund the liability insurance package for the Coal Festival activities on May 20 – 23, 2009; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letter of Support & Donation – New Playground in Hamilton Township:

Councilmember Jill Nickerson is scheduled to have a meeting with a person on the committee for the new playground. Motion to table this was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009 AT THE BLOSSBURG FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009.

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 13th ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY APRIL 2, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember James J. Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary